

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 12 are amended. Claims 13 and 14 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the November 30, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-11 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Guiton, U.S. Patent No. 5,069,737 (hereinafter Guiton). (*November 30 Office Action, page 2*) The Examiner rejected claims 3, 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Guiton in view of Eastman et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,606,955 (hereinafter Eastman). (*November 30 Office Action, page 3*) Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A hollow panel comprising:

first hollow portions arranged in a substantially same plane and having first sectional areas; and

second hollow portions arranged in the substantially same plane and having second sectional areas different from the first sectional areas, *wherein partition walls of the first hollow portions and the second hollow portions are made of the same material.*

The Guiton reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the hollow panel specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the hollow panel specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Guiton does not teach a hollow panel “*wherein partition walls of the first hollow portions and the second hollow portions are made of the same material.*” Instead, the Guiton

reference is directed to a method of forming a stiffener for a panel. (*Guiton; Abstract*) Guiton discloses that the walls which form hollow spaces are constituted by layers of fiber and resin 86, 88, 92 and core formers 92 and 94 which are hollow glass reinforced plastic (GRP) and the like. (*Guiton; Col. 4, lines 40-42*) Thus, the layers and formers are formed of different materials. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over the Guiton reference.

Claim 5 recites similar limitations to independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 distinguishes over Guiton for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend from claims 1 and 5, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 and 6-9 distinguish over Guiton for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 5, as amended.

With respect to claims 3 and 8, as amended, the Eastman reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Guiton. The Eastman reference is directed to a conductive dielectric structure having electrically conductive channels through its thickness. (*Eastman; Abstract*) The Examiner utilizes Eastman to show a solid portion forming member inserted into first and second hollow portions corresponding to the shape of the section. (*November 30 Office Action, page 3*) However, the combination of Eastman and Guiton does not disclose a panel ***“wherein partition walls of the first hollow portions and the second hollow portions are made of the same material.”***

In addition, unlike claims 3 and 8, as amended, the combination of Eastman and Guiton does not disclose that ***“a solid portion forming member is inserted into a part of the first and second hollow portions, the solid portion forming member having a section shape which***

substantially corresponds to a section shape of the part of the first and second hollow portions.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 8 distinguish over Guiton in combination with Eastman.

Claims 13 and 14 recite similar limitations to claims 3 and 8 as amended, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 14 distinguish over claims Guiton in combination with Eastman for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claims 3 and 8, as amended respectively.

Independent claim 10 recites:

A hollow panel comprising:
first and second partition walls defining a plurality of hollow portions arranged in a substantially same plane, wherein a thickness of the first partition walls is different from that of the second partition walls.

The Guiton reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the hollow panel specified in independent claim 10. Unlike the hollow panel specified in independent claim 10, Guiton does not teach a hollow panel “*wherein a thickness of the first partition walls is different from that of the second partition walls.*” Instead, the Guiton reference discloses that the walls defining the hollow portions have the same thickness. (See Guiton; Fig 8 (A) – (L)) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 distinguishes over Guiton.

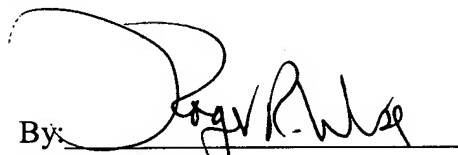
Claims 11 and 12 depend directly from independent claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 12 distinguish over Guiton for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 10.

With respect to claim 12, as amended, the Eastman reference does not make up for the

deficiencies of Guiton. Specifically, the combination of Eastman and Guiton fails to disclose "*a solid portion forming member is inserted into a part of the first and second hollow portions,* the solid portion forming member having a section shape which substantially corresponds to a section shape of the part of the first and second hollow portions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 distinguishes over Guiton in combination with Eastman.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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